



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Allen Applauds Restoration of M-72 Funding in Grand Traverse County

LANSING – Senator Jason Allen, R- Traverse City, today announced his support for the “Priorities First” program introduced by Senate Republicans to restore funding for 34 critical road projects in Michigan. The “Priorities First” program will allow local communities to continue key road projects which were deferred by Governor Jennifer Granholm’s “Preserve First” initiative.

“Road infrastructure is essential to the success of businesses and tourism in northern Michigan,” Allen said. “If residents cannot travel or ship goods through Michigan, our local economy will suffer. Restoring the transportation funds to where they belong is the right thing for northern Michigan.”

The “Priorities First” program will restore funding for the M-72 project in Grand Traverse County. The project will create an access management plan which will help local governments develop appropriate land use strategies for the corridor.

The Republican initiative will restore funding for the 34 critical road projects, based on objective criteria, as proposed in the 2002 Five Year Road and Bridge program. The restored funding will assist local units of government who have already invested time and money into the proposed road construction locations in their communities.

Gov. Granholm’s “Preserve First” program stopped action on these projects without any notice to state legislators, local governments or road building organizations. Local communities around the state were surprised by her initiative, which summarily eliminated the projects in all areas except Detroit.

The “Priorities First” program constructs a long term plan for the economic development and public safety needs of all communities.

To date, two public hearings on the deferred road projects have been scheduled to allow local citizens and governments to make their concerns heard. The first hearing will be conducted on Wednesday, April 30 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hudsonville City Hall Chambers, located at 3275 Central Blvd. in Hudsonville. The second meeting will take place at the Oakland County Admission Auditorium in Pontiac on May at 7:00 p.m.

Individuals interested in more information on the “Priorities First” hearings or the 34 deferred projects may contact Senator Allen’s office at 866-525-5637 or [senjallen@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senjallen@senate.michigan.gov).